

Reflections on a Rural Connectivity Agenda

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Abstract

This reflection is the result of the research project "National Policy on Connectivity and Social Inclusion in Rural Areas". The first phase of the project analysed the genesis of the connectivity policy in Colombia and its links with rural development. Based on a qualitative approach, a documentary review methodology was proposed, from which the transitions of public policy on technology in Colombia and its relationship with a particular view of development were analysed. The analysis presented refers to the understanding of rural development from the perspective of the Integral Rural Reform proposal put forward as part of the Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace of the previous government. In particular, it considers the framework of the National Rural Connectivity Plan, which proposes the expansion of internet network infrastructure as a strategy to improve the living conditions of rural communities. From a technological determinist perspective, the policy proposes that the implementation of ICTs is a determining factor in the reduction of inequality gaps between urban and rural areas and the mobilisation of development and democratisation in rural areas.

Keywords: colombian conflict; connectivity policy; rural development; social development.